Supporting Software Preservation Services in Research and Memory Organizations - Survey Instrument

**The following 3 questions were shown to all respondents:**

Q1 (Required) Does your organization currently provide services (established or experimental) related to software preservation (e.g. consultation, preservation, creation of metadata for preserved software, etc.)?

Yes

No

Q2 (Required) Please indicate the type of organization you are affiliated with.

Academic

Commercial

Government

Nonprofit

Other (please explain below):

Q3 (Required) Please select the option below that best describes your job position in your organization.

Administrator

Archivist

Conservator

Curator

Information Technologist

Librarian

Other (please explain below):

**The following set of questions was shown to respondents who answered Yes to Q1:**

Q4 How often do you provide the following services?

|  | Frequently | Rarely (a few times a year) | Never |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Consultation about software preservation |  |  |  |
| Preservation of software |  |  |  |
| Metadata creation for preserved software |  |  |  |
| Access to preserved software |  |  |  |

Q5 If you provide a service other than those previously mentioned in question 4, please describe the service(s) and list associated frequencies.

Q6 Which software components or related items do you preserve?

Executables (e.g. .exe files, CD-ROMs, etc.)

Source code

Documentation about software

Other (please explain below):

Q7 What is the license status of the software you preserve?

Open source license (e.g. MIT, Apache, etc.)

Proprietary / commercial

Don’t know (🤷🏽)

Other (please explain below):

Q8 What is the provenance of the software you preserve?

Software created by or within your institution

Software create by an entity or individual other than or outside of your institution

Other (please explain below):

Q9 What are your / your institution’s motivations or use cases for preserving software?

Preserve software because it is part of the cultural record

Preserve software in order to preserve and / or provide access to other collections / data

Preserve software for legal / regulatory compliance

Preserve software so it can be reused

Preserve software to aid in scientific reproducibility

Other (please explain below):

Q10 Do you have software-specific workflows in place for any of the following?

Accessioning software

Creating metadata for software

Ingesting software

Preserving software

Providing access to software

Q11 If you’re comfortable sharing your workflows, please upload them here.

Q12 Do you have any of the following policies related to software preservation?

Collection development policy

Deed of gift / donor agreement

License agreement

Preservation policy

Access policy

Other (please explain below):

Q13 If you’re comfortable sharing your policies, please upload them here.

Q14 Have you received requests from researchers who want to access preserved software?

Yes

No

Q15 How many staff are at all involved in software preservation at your institution? (for example, involvement might include technical maintenance of required systems, metadata work, selection / curation of software, providing access to preserved software, etc.)

0

1

2-4

5-10

11+

Q16 What kinds of resources (financial, human resources, etc.) do you rely on to engage in software curation and preservation activities?

Resources from your institution

Resources from granting organizations

Support and expertise from professional communities

Other (please explain below):

**The following set of questions was shown to respondents who answered No to Q1:**

Q17 Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future?

Yes

Maybe

No

*Display The Following Question:*

*If Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? = Yes*

*And Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? = Maybe*

Q18 What would be your / your institution’s motivations or use cases for preserving software?

Preserve software because it is part of the cultural record

Preserve software in order to preserve and / or provide access to other collections / data

Preserve software for legal / regulatory compliance

Preserve software so it can be reused

Preserve software to aid in scientific reproducibility

Other (please explain below):

*Display The Following Question:*

*If Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? = Yes*

*And Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? = Maybe*

Q19 What information would you use and / or like to have to make an argument for obtaining the resources and support needed to engage in software preservation?

Data about software preservation needs at your institution

Data about software preservation activities at peer institutions

Best practice guidelines, case studies, and / or instructions for engaging in software preservation activities

Other (please explain below):

*Display The Following Question:*

*If Are you considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? = No*

Q20 Why are you not considering providing services related to software preservation in the future? Please move these items to rank them in order from most important (1) to least important (6).

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of human resources

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of financial support

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of time

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of need

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain below):

**The following six questions were shown to all respondents:**

Q21 What skill sets do you think are needed to collect, preserve, curate, and provide access to software?

Knowledge of software development

Knowledge of software uses

IT skills

Understanding of archival best practices Archives skills (e.g. accessioning, appraisal, provenance)

Community engagement skills

Reference skills

Other (please explain below):

Q22 What do you hope an international software preservation consortium could provide to you / your institution that you feel you could not otherwise accomplish on your own or with existing partnerships? Please move these items to rank them in order from most important (1) to least important (6).

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Best practices

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peer-to-peer support

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pathways to funding

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Support with advocacy within and / or beyond your institution

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Technical infrastructure

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain below):

Q23 What questions do you have about software preservation that you’d like to explore or learn more about?

Q24 Do you have anything else you’d like to tell us?

Q25 Please state your employer / institutional affiliation.

Q26 Are you interested in being interviewed about these topics in more detail? If so, please provide your name and email: